



Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown online newspaper

Homeport

Vol. I, No. 01

July 31, 2001

FFSC celebrates move, open house



Photo by Stacey Byington

Gerri Warden, FFSC information and referral specialist, left, and Margaret Scurfield, FFSC director, cut the cake celebrating the center's new location.

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

The staff of the Fleet and Family Support Center, Naval Station Pascagoula, hosted an open house recently to show their new facility and promote the center's programs.

"Our motto is 'Your FFSC – meeting needs, finding solutions'," said FFSC director Margaret Scurfield. "The FFSC is here to support area sailors in a number of ways including relocation and transition assistance, spouse employment, family advocacy, individual, family and financial counseling. We are staffed with a variety of personnel including social workers, educators, and program specialists."

The FFSC at Naval Station Pascagoula is a full service center, and currently has a staff of 13 serving area single sailors, couples, families and retirees in the Mississippi Gulf Coast area.

"We do so many things, it's almost hard to know where to start," said Johnnette Wilkerson, project manager and clinical supervisor. "Under our information and referral hat we provide information and referrals on and to services available in Jackson County and the

Gulf Coast area – services that might benefit both our sailors and their families."

In their command support role the FFSC has programs that help family members prepare for deployment and ships' homecomings.

Counselors at the FFSC provide short-term counseling, are trained in crisis intervention, provide individual, marital and family counseling, host anger and stress management seminars, and provide family advocacy prevention education briefs, assessments and counseling.

The FFSC is also an employment center, providing assistance in resume preparation and local job placement; hosting career planning and educational opportunity workshops, job search seminars; and spouse employment assistance.

"We also provide temporary linens, cooking utensils and bedding for military families relocating into this area," said Wilkerson.

"The FFSC is like a 'one-stop' resource facility for sailors and their families," Scurfield added. "Our mission is to support commands in achieving their operational readiness, superior performance, retention, and a reasonable quality of life for sailors and their families."

Naval Station launches online base newspaper

Naval Station Pascagoula today joins the growing list of Navy bases and commands with online editions of their base newspaper.

Beginning with this edition, and all future publications, *Homeport* can now be found online at the Naval Station web site, www.cnsl.spear.navy.mil/nspasca-goula/homeport/.

"It all comes down to money," said station executive officer, Lt.Cmdr. Shri Stroud. "Printing costs have risen significantly in the past several years, and this is one way we can get our base and Navy news out to sailors, their families, and the local community with very little cost."

For the next couple of months the goal of the station Public Affairs Office will be to post the base paper at least monthly, working up to twice a month and then a weekly newspaper.

"Eventually, with the help of all hands -- military, civilian, and the local community -- we envision a weekly base newspaper," said Stacey Byington, station public affairs officer. "But in order for that to happen, we need everyone's help."

There are several who are concerned that sailors will still not have access to base news.

"Some Sailors may have limited ac-

cess to computers and others may not check their e-mail on a regular basis," said HM2(FMF) Milton Harmon with the Branch Medical Clinic.

"I think it's a great idea," said Sharon Christman, one of Naval Station's admin assistants. "Money will be saved on paper, the word will get out faster and everyone will have access to the paper."

Inside

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SECNAV's message to the fleet

By The Honorable Gordon R. England
Secretary of the Navy

Greetings.

On May 24, 2001, I was sworn-in as your 72nd Secretary of the Navy and am pleased to be embarking with you on an exciting voyage! Our Navy and Marine Corps team has established a stellar record of mission accomplishment both in combat and peacetime operations. We have no equal in the entire world and you are unmatched in your profession. I am very proud to join this fine team.

I can say, along with the Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Clark, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Jones, that we are going to get even better as we transform America's armed forces for the 21st century. As usual, our nation and the world looks to us for leadership. The opportunities are vast, the responsibilities great, the expectations high. You have my solemn pledge that I will do everything in my power to keep our Navy and Marine Corps the best in the world.

The President and Secretary of Defense have indicated this is a time of change. I ask that each of you join me and them, bringing your talents, innovative thoughts and experience to bear, in transforming the way we do business in order to meet our commitments, now and in the future. I know that the Navy and Marine Corps team has a strong sense of our core values of honor, courage and commitment. In that vein we should at all times conduct our business in a forthright, open, honest and direct manner both with each other and the public.



Secretary of the Navy
The Honorable Gordon R. England

In my testimony to Congress I listed four areas of emphasis: combat capability; people; advanced technology; and business practices. Of these four, the men and women in the fleet and those who support their combat capability are the most

important elements of our team.

A fifth area of emphasis is combat capability. The primary purpose of the Navy and Marine Corps is to deter, train for, and when necessary, fight and win our nation's battles. Combat capability, which includes readiness, must be our primary emphasis.

People are another area of concern. A ship pier side has no asset value without a well-trained and highly motivated crew. We need to continue to invest in the human capital that makes our Navy and Marine Corps the world's finest.

I support the CNO and Commandant's efforts in emphasizing "Quality of service" - by focusing on a higher quality workplace as well as a higher quality of life for our people. I am committed to this effort and will work to accelerate the results that can benefit the entire team: Those on active duty, the reserves, our dedicated civilians, those who are retired and those whom we seek to recruit as well our families.

Everyone in the Department of the Navy needs to recognize that while some positions carry a greater burden, all of our people are important to our mission. At
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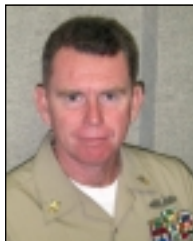
Quality of life issues addressed

Just want to start out by saying its great to have Ms. Stacey Byington and JO2 Johnson on board to kick off the first on-line edition of the Homeport. This outlet will be a great way for us to share our accomplishments throughout the Naval Station.

Additionally, each edition will give a different command the opportunity to hear from commanding officers and the command master chiefs about what is happening within their lifelines.

I would like to take this opportunity to talk about some of the quality of life issues that are being addressed at Naval Station Pascagoula.

Our new barber, Kisten Miller, has been on board for some time now, and has built a great reputation as evidenced by the long line to get a haircut. The good side of this is she is fast. Her hours are Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Last cut is at 4:30 p.m.



By MMCM(SW)
Terry McIntyre
CMC
NAVSTA Pascagoula

Our tailor, Denise Hayward, can give us a three-day turn-around on alterations (sooner if you ask real nice). Her shop is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Denise will be on vacation through Aug. 6.

As you know, the USO is open for your enjoyment. They serve a great lunch, and on Wednesdays, in addition to the regular menu, meatball subs will be available. The USO hours are Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, from 5 to 11 p.m.. We have started building a deck behind the USO as well.

For all you paintball enthusiasts, our paintball field is under construction and will be up and running soon. We will keep you posted on the grand-opening date.

If you have any additional requests or desires that would further enhance our quality of life at Naval Station please bring them to the Quality of Life Review board on the second Thursday of each month at Building 10.

Another avenue would be through your command master chief. Make him or her aware of your concerns or desires, and they will bring them to the table.



Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown online newspaper

Homeport

Commanding Officer...Cmdr. Tara LaCavera
Executive Officer...Lt.Cmdr. Shri Stroud
Public Affairs Officer...Stacey Byington
Reporter...JO2 Renee Johnson

Homeport is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families stationed at or around Naval Station Pascagoula, Miss. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy, and do not imply endorsement thereof. The editorial content and any supplement is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Naval Station Pascagoula.

Deadline for all routine copy is close of business the Friday before publication. Questions or comments can be directed to the Naval Station Pascagoula Public Affairs Officer. The staff of Homeport can be reached at (228) 761-2164 or (228) 761-2019.

From our Fleet



U.S. Navy Photo

A small boat from USS Yorktown (CG 48) returns to the ship with four passengers rescued from a small merchant fishing vessel, the Corporate Office, about 40 miles off the coast of Panama City, Fla., in stormy seas.

Yorktown rescues four in stormy seas

By Ens. Sarah Thomas
PAO, USS Yorktown

USS Yorktown (CG 48) came to the rescue of four passengers in a small merchant fishing vessel, the Corporate Office, stranded 40 miles off the coast of Panama City, Fla., on Friday, June 1.

Officer of the Deck, Senior Chief Fire Controlman (Surface Warfare) Thomas Taylor, overheard the vessel's distress calls and subsequent conversation with the Coast Guard on VHF radio. Yorktown was within 10 miles of the merchant vessel's position, and able to provide temporary assistance to the vessel's crew until Coast Guard Cutter Coho arrived on station.

Coast Guard Rescue 2312 HU-25 aided in localizing and

vectoring Yorktown toward the small boat, which was nearly impossible to see visually or on radar in the heavy seas and stormy weather.

The vessel's fishing lines had gotten entangled in its propeller and caused the motor to short out. It had been in distress for approximately 16 hours and out to sea for more than 24 hours.

The four passengers were transferred to Yorktown where they were provided relief from the oncoming thunderstorm. All were determined to be in good medical condition and given lunch, refreshments, showers, and dry clothes.

USS Yorktown was independent steaming in the Gulf of Mexico in preparation for Joint Exercise Amalgam Virgo when the incident occurred.

Hall crew honors vets with wreath-laying

By Lt. Paul Austin
PAO, USS John L. Hall

Members from the crew of USS John L. Hall (FFG 32), along with representatives from the American Consulate in Hamburg Germany honored fallen American servicemen at a wreath-laying ceremony in Hamburg at the end of May.

Hall's Commanding Officer, Terry L. Wilson, stressed the importance of remembering those brave Americans who sacrificed their lives to promote American ideals and interests throughout our history. The quiet ceremony was a stirring symbol of the close connection between contemporary American servicemen and those who have gone before them.

The event was only one of the many functions in which the ship has participated during her North Atlantic Deployment. The Hall is currently assigned to Standing Naval Forces Atlantic conducting



U.S. Navy Photo

USS John L. Hall Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Terry Wilson, renders a hand salute to the Wreath of Remembrance, as a crewmember places the wreath. The wreath was donated by the officers and crew of the Hall.

NATO operations in the North and Baltic Seas.

While on deployment, the ship has visited Lisbon, Portugal; Plymouth, England; Aarhus, Denmark; and Wilhelms-haven, Germany. The Hall is homeported in Pascagoula, Miss., and is a member of Destroyer Squadron Six.

Ticonderoga sailors help school in South America

By Lt.j.g. Heather Streetman
PAO, USS Ticonderoga

Manta, Ecuador -- Sailors from the guided-missile cruiser USS Ticonderoga joined together to donate school supplies and make repairs to an elementary school during a three-day port visit in Manta, Ecuador. The Ticonderoga is currently supporting U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command's (COMUS-NAVSO) engagement commitments in South America.

Ticonderoga's second class petty officers took the lead in organizing the com-

munity relations project at an elementary school in Manta. Men and women of the Aegis cruiser generously donated pens, pencils, and paper to the school as well as new basketballs and soccer balls to replace the well-used playground toys. Twenty-three Ticonderoga sailors put their Navy know-how to the test completing several challenging repair projects around the school. IT1(SW) Kenneth Hudgens, SK2(SW) Reginald Williams, SN Mario Lugo, and STG3 Richard Reyes repaired a wall of the

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Around the Homeport

Pascagoula's USO now open for sailors

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

Senator Trent Lott, R-MS, Senate Majority Leader, was the christening official and principle speaker at the dedication ceremony of the new USO at Naval Station Pascagoula, held May 30.

"Your national Congressional delegation is working with the Navy and Cmdr. (Tara) LaCavera to ensure homeport Pascagoula and its sailors have the best facilities possible," said Sen. Lott. "This project was a team effort."

"This event today is a perfect example of what can be done when people work together and make a determination to get a job done," Lott said. "Over 10 months of work went into this, and 2,400 man hours. This is going to be a home away from home for our sailors. I am delighted to be here for this occasion. I want to thank all those who have been involved, and tell you all how proud I am of the people that support our Navy, and our military men and women. I believe this is symbolic of the future that we are going to have in Pascagoula, Jackson County and in the state of Mississippi."

The Naval Station Pascagoula USO will be a 'home away from home' for approximately 3,500 military personnel and their families throughout the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The facility features a 5,300-square-foot permanent steel structure, wired for computers and satellite television. Features include a kitchen, game rooms, comfortable television viewing area, reading room, dining area, and stage for live entertainment.

This USO building will

help support the Navy's retention efforts, one of the Navy's top priorities. "Having this 'little touch of home' will go a long way toward accomplishing this," said Cmdr. Tara LaCavera, commanding officer of Naval Station Pascagoula.

"Your USO board of directors joins a worldwide volunteer corps of more than 12,000 delivering USO programs in 220 centers around the world," said Hal Hessler, Executive Director of USO World Headquarters in Washington, D.C. "Wherever our Armed Forces go to protect our freedom, the USO goes with them."

The dedication of the Naval Station Pascagoula USO is the culmination of efforts of a multitude of community organizations and military partnerships. \$650,000 for building materials came from the State of Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development and another \$100,000 was donated by Jackson County, which includes the cities of Pascagoula, Gautier and Ocean Springs, and many other community organizations and individuals. This is the 220th USO facility worldwide.

The building was constructed entirely by U.S. Navy Seabees – specifically NMCB SEVEN, out of Gulfport; NMCB Five, from Port Hueneme, Calif.; and NMCB 26, a reserve unit out of Detroit, Mich. They cleared the land and built the facility. The architect was Cook Douglass Farr Lemons Ltd.

"The dedication of this new USO comes only four months after the USO celebrated its 60th birthday," said Joe Cole, Mayor of the City of Pascagoula. "The USO

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Photo by Stacey Byington

Sen. Trent Lott, R-MS, breaks a bottle of champagne against the side of the new USO building at Naval Station Pascagoula as honored guests and media look on. Standing behind Sen. Lott is A.C. "Skeeter" Weeks, president of the USO Mississippi Coast Council. The new USO will be a 'home away from home' for approximately 3,500 military personnel and their families throughout the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Around the Homeport



Photo by Stacey Byington

College scholarship recipients pose with their benefactors at the Navy Campus open house. From left are Dr. Houshang Morandmand, vice president of the Jackson County Campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; SK1 Angela Irving; FC2 James Woods; Mrs. William Cheek; FC2 Michael Helton; and BM2 Aneitta Smith.

College scholarships awarded to sailors

The Navy College Office of Naval Station Pascagoula and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College joined forces last month hosting an open house and presenting scholarship awards to four area sailors.

Mrs. William Cheek presented two scholarships in memory of her husband who spent 20 years in the submarine service. Receiving the William Cheek Memorial Scholarships were BM2

Aneitta Smith with the Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) Pascagoula, and FC2 Michael Helton, a crewmember on the USS Yorktown (CG 48).

Receiving scholarships from the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Foundation are FC2 James Woods, a crewmember on the USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51), and SK1 Angela Irving, assigned to SIMA Pascagoula.

Navy Birthday Ball fund-raisers

Support your shipmates by participating in some of the following activities. All profits support the Navy Birthday Ball.

Bake-sale next to McDonalds -- Aug. 1, 6:30 - 7:45 a.m., then in the NEX parking lot until sold out

Yard-sale at Lakeside -- Aug. 4, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Silent auction in the gymnasium -- Aug. 16, 5 p.m. (Items on display at 1 p.m., auction begins at 5 p.m.)

Car wash at Lakeside -- Aug. 17, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Car wash at Lakeside -- Sept. 14, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Raffle tickets for at 25-inch color television are on sale at the Navy Exchange daily from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

NAVSTA named runner-up for Bronze Hammer award

Naval Station Pascagoula has been named the runner up in the Navy-wide 2000 Self-Help Bronze Hammer Award program in the category of no construction battalion in the area with an enlisted allowance less than 1,000. Maintenance cost savings to the command have been estimated at more than \$95,000. Labor cost savings are estimated at more than \$260,000.

The Navy Self-Help Bronze Hammer Awards program recognizes naval activities around the world that have made exceptional progress improving the naval shore establishment through the use of self-help efforts.

Commending all category winners, Vice Adm. James Amerault, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for fleet readiness and logistics, said, "Through your dedicated efforts, better living and working conditions are being provided to Navy personnel and their dependents, enhancing work spaces, as well as morale, welfare and recreational facilities."

Specific projects at Pascagoula included but were not limited to construction of the missile launcher display in

front of the main base administration building, and construction of a 24-foot "T"-shaped pier behind the Lakeside bachelor quarters. Self-help projects also included minor repairs, preventive maintenance and landscaping to facilities and grounds throughout the base.

"Naval Station Pascagoula maintains a strong self-help program, and we're very proud of our accomplishments this year," says station commanding officer, Cmdr. Tara LaCavera. "Along with completing several significant projects, we responded to gapped shop billets and a growing maintenance backlog by directing many of our routine service calls to self-help for completion by First Lieutenant Division personnel."

"This approach had a multifaceted impact as it reduced maintenance backlog while giving our transient personnel productive work to do that greatly benefited the command."

Naval Station Pascagoula's self-help coordinator is Senior Chief Builder (Seabee Combat Warfare) Matthew Cabral.

Water compliance commended

Commander, Navy Region Southeast, Rear Adm. Jan Gaudio recently sent a message congratulating environmental teams for compliance with the Clean Water Act. Naval Station Pascagoula was one of four commands recognized for attainment of 100 percent compliance for the period October 2000 through March 2001.

"Performing our mission of enabling war-fighter readiness while complying with this particularly important body of regulations is indeed

an accomplishment," he said.

In addition to Pascagoula, Naval Weapons Station Charleston, Naval Air Facility Key West and Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, were also named.

"It is very important for the environment and the continued operation of the fleet that we operate within the federal, state and local regulations. Thank you and your staff for this example of exemplary performance," Rear Adm. Gaudio added.

SIMA Spotlight



Engineman named outstanding sailor

EN2(SW) Lisa Lembrick is one of Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) Pascagoula's top performers. She was recently named SIMA's Sailor of the Quarter.

Lembrick is a member of the pump and valve shop. She is responsible for the maintenance and repair of ship pumps and valves.

"We maintain and repair pumps and valves that ships can't do themselves," she said. "When a piece of equipment comes to us for repair or maintenance, we order the parts, replace them when they come in, and do the testing. When a piece of equipment goes back to the ship it is ready to work."

A 12-year Navy veteran, Lembrick says she enjoys her work as an engineman. She has had a varied career, working at a number of different types of duty stations.

Her first assignment after completing engineman "A" school was in the Port Operations Department of Naval

Submarine Base, Groton, Conn. "I worked on tugs," she said. "There we did it all."

From Groton, she had her first shipboard duty, aboard the USS Yosemite, homeported in Mayport, Fla. She spent eight months on the Yosemite, working in the stem and heat shop. Her next port of call was Naval Air Facility LaMaddelena, Italy. Again, Lembrick worked on the station tugs and the highlight of this tour was her qualification as a chief engineer.

She remained overseas for her next assignment, with the Naval Security Group Activity, San Juan, Puerto Rico, where she was in charge of the activity's electrical generators. From San Juan, Lembrick headed back to sea, aboard the USS Carter Hall (LSD 50). She was the leading petty officer for the small boat shop.

"We were responsible for all the small boats, liberty boats and the yellow gear (forklifts, heavy equipment).

Her assignment at SIMA Pascagoula has been yet another learning experience.



Photo by Stacey Byington

EN2(SW) Lisa Lembrick works on a valve in SIMA's pump and valve shop.

"This has been the first command where I have gotten the chance to work on pumps and valves," Lembrick said. "I had a good teacher when I arrived, MM2 Chris Gullette," she added. "He was always very careful to teach me the right way to do things, and how to check the seals, pump alignments and other things I need-

ed to know."

Lembrick deserves her recognition as Sailor of the Quarter says her leading petty officer, EN1 Andy Ripko.

"Lembrick does really good work," he said. "She does what she is told, takes initiative, and has good attention to detail. I am glad to have her."

SIMA sailor records a gospel CD album

By JO2 Renee Johnson
NAVSTA Public Affairs Office

Many of us recognize how difficult having a full-time career and raising a family can be, but SK1 Angela Irving of SIMA Pascagoula's supply department, finds time not only for her Navy career, husband and five children, but has also recently cut a gospel CD called "Come to My Rescue."

Irving says she has been singing most of her life, starting out at the age of five in her hometown of Bastrop, La., singing in the choir of St. Phillips Baptist Church.

Part of a group called "N 2 Jesus," Irving and her friends

recorded the 12-song CD at Holly House, a recording studio in Biloxi, Miss. It has sold more than 500 copies.

"This was an experience that I never thought I would have," Irving said.

One song that Irving is particularly proud of is "You Are," which she produced herself.

"In my life God is everything," she explained. "I lost my father in August last year and I dedicated this song to him."

Irving said she got a great deal of encouragement and support from her friends and family while working on the CD.

"My supervisor was very supportive in allowing me the time," she said, adding, "My husband was also very supportive as long as there was not too much traveling involved."

"N 2 Jesus" performs songs from their new CD in Waynesboro and Jackson, Miss. She also volunteers to sing at special occasions for friends.

One of those, Lt. J.J. Coyne, SC, SIMA's supply officer, recently got married and asked Irving to sing at the ceremony.

"I had never heard her sing," he said, "but everyone said she was great, and I thought that extra personal touch would be good. "It was absolutely awesome."

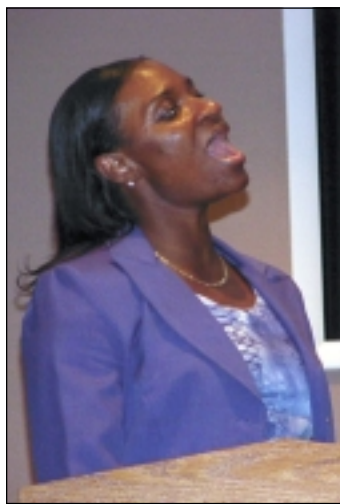


Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

Angela Irving sings in the choir at Macedonia Baptist Church in Ocean Springs.

Athletics/MWR activities



Photo by Stacey Byington

Runners from SIMA Pascagoula managed to out-distance teams from the USS Thomas S. Gates and the USS Yorktown in the first annual Surface Navy Association, Pascagoula chapter, 5K Fun Run.

Surface Navy Association 5K Fun Run a success

Approximately 100 runners from among all the commands in the Pascagoula area took part in the Surface Navy Association, Pascagoula Chapter, 5K Fun Run held June 15.

Trophies were presented to the top three male finishers and top three female finishers. Team trophies were presented at the SNA luncheon June 21.

"It was a great run," said Capt. John Nawrocki, commanding officer of the USS Iwo Jima, and president of the local chapter. "All the participants received SNA t-shirts, and we had a lot of new members join the association."

Top three finishers in all categories were:

Top males: AR Juan Papra, Iwo Jima, with a time of 15 minutes flat; HT2 Alexander Richburg, SIMA, 16 minutes flat; and GM2 Magilke, USS Thomas S. Gates, 16:24.

Top females: Lt.j.g. Farrell, USS Yorktown, 17:09; IT3 Kirby, USS Iwo Jima, 22:32; and ENS Oxley, USS Yorktown, 24:45.

SIMA Pascagoula ran away with the traveling team trophy which they will display proudly until next year's run. The Iwo Jima placed second in team points and the USS Thomas S. Gates edged out USS Yorktown, USS Stephen W. Groves and NAVSTA Pascagoula for third place.

Upcoming MWR activities

Naval Station Pascagoula's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department has a wide range of activities and events planned for the month of August:

Aug. 4 -- Jet ski outing, rental fees are \$35 for a half-hour, and \$65 for a full hour, transportation is free. Sign-up not later than Aug. 1.

Aug. 7 -- ITT has tickets for Lee Greenwood at the Biloxi Grand Theater, 8 p.m.

Aug. 10 -- ITT has tickets for Sawyer Brown at the Gulfport Grand Pavilion at 8 p.m.

Aug. 11 -- Take the entire family to the Audobon Zoo in New Orleans. Cost including transportation is \$7.50 for adults, \$6 for children. Sign-up not later than Aug. 8.

Aug. 18 -- Schedule a fun day in the sun at Sam's Fun City Water Park in Pensacola, Fla. Transportation cost is \$5. Sign-up not later than Aug. 15.

Aug. 18 -- Football fans, it's that time of year again. ITT has tickets available for the

preseason game between the New Orleans Saints and the Dallas Cowboys, 7 p.m. at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

Aug. 21 -- "Chicago, the Musical," begins a two-month run at the Biloxi Grand Theater. Showtime is 8 p.m.

Aug. 22 -- NSYNC fans can check out the NSYNC concert at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans at 7 p.m.

Aug. 25 -- Paintball enthusiasts should register for the "Paintball Warped Sportz Trip" to Gulfport. The \$25 fee includes transportation, equipment and 200 paintballs. Sign-up not later than Aug. 22.

Tickets for most activities and events are available through the Information, Tickets and Tours office, open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The telephone number is 761-2432. ITT also has tickets to Disney World, Universal Studios, Jazzland, Six Flags, Busch Gardens, Sea

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Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

Jake Raines of Moss Point crosses the finish line first in the ninth annual Homeport Causeway Classic 5K Run, with a time of 15:59. The Classic was held Saturday, July 14. The overall top female finisher was Jessica Tranchina of Ocean Springs with a time of 19:41. The master male and female finishers were Leonard Vergunst of Ocean Springs with a time of 17:15, and Lu Jeffrey of Semmes, Ala., with a time of 25:14, respectively. Tara LaCavera, NAVSTA Pascagoula CO, finished first in her age group, 40-44.

Military News

Navy officials targeting ecstasy drug use

By the Navy Wire Service

Ecstasy will not only kill your Navy career, but it can also kill you.

For this reason, the Navy has targeted the drug ecstasy, also known as MDMA, as a hazard to readiness and force protection.

Drug use dulls the "combat edge" that military personnel need to be able to respond effectively in an operationally intense environment. Therefore, the Navy has "zero tolerance" for illicit drugs.

Individuals found guilty of illegal drug use face an other than honorable discharge in addition to reduction in grade and loss of pay. An adverse military discharge results in a loss of veterans educational benefits, including the Montgomery GI Bill. A drug conviction can also result in a loss of other federal college fund benefits. Sharing of drugs is distribution that most likely will end in serious jail time and a

bad conduct discharge.

Sailors and Marines who use ecstasy are under the impression that it is a "safe" drug. This is far from the truth.

For those who chose to ignore the warning, ecstasy, also known as "adam," "xtc," "hug," "beans" and "love drug," has resulted in hospitalization and even death. Medical risks associated with ecstasy use include:

- A sharp increase in body temperature that can result in dehydration, muscle breakdown, and kidney and cardiovascular system failure;

- Psychological difficulties, including confusion, depression, sleep problems, drug craving, severe anxiety and paranoia that can sometimes last weeks after taking ecstasy;

- Physical symptoms such as muscle tension, involuntary teeth clenching, nausea, blurred vision, rapid eye movement, faintness and chills or sweating;

- Increases in heart rate and

blood pressure, a special risk for people with undiagnosed circulatory or heart disease.

Adverse drug reactions are frequently associated with ecstasy use. Ecstasy is often "cut" with other drugs, or drug substitutes are sold as ecstasy. The danger is a "russian roulette" for a reaction to these drug mixtures, especially individuals who are already taking other prescribed or over-the-counter medications.

What can sailors and marines do to combat illegal drug use? Become knowledgeable about and familiar with the signs of drug use. Command leadership is key. Everyone from the commanding officers to the leading petty officers are tasked to ensure all members of their staff are educated to the impact of drug use on unit readiness and force protection.

There are two training packages available at the Navy Personnel Command (NavPersCom) Pers-6 web site, <http://navdweb.spawar.navy.mil>.

One is work center supervisor training and the other for ecstasy awareness training. A randomization drug testing software program is also available at <http://navdweb.spawar.navy.mil>.

An effective command drug-testing program also improves force protection. The best deterrent to drug use is to raise the perceived risk of detection through frequent random testing. Once the risk of detection is heightened, the willingness to use drugs drops significantly. Studies have shown that implementing an effective program of drug testing and drug education reduces the level of drug use.

For additional information, contact your command drug and alcohol program advisor or go to <http://navdweb.spawar.navy.mil>. NavPers Com (Pers-603) can be reached at DSN 882-4240 or (901) 874-4240, or e-mail at <mailto:p603c@persnet.navy.mil>.

New pay chart

DoD officials have released the proposed fiscal 2002 active duty military pay table. It can be found on the Internet at www.defenselink.mil/specials/militarypay2002/paychart2002.html.

The pay table incorporates the proposed 4.6 percent pay raise service members would get if Congress approves the Bush Administration's fiscal 2002 DoD budget request.

If approved, the pay raise goes into effect Jan. 1, 2002.

The pay table does not include the proposed targeted 5 to 10 percent pay raise President Bush is also proposing.

CNO launches major training initiative

By Lt.Cmdr. Gary Kirchner
CNO Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON (NWS) — Following a year focused on aligning the Navy to better focus on the fleet, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark announced Friday that his top personal action item for the next 12 months is to revolutionize the way the Navy trains Sailors.

Named "Task Force EXCEL" (Excellence through Commitment to Education and Learning), this initiative will provide the tools and opportunities that will enable people to learn, grow and develop into successful leaders who make a difference in the Navy.

"We must have a commitment to education and learning

that will arm our Sailors to excel," said Clark. "We owe those who promise to serve the best possible training throughout their Navy experience so they can succeed and prosper in their professional and personal lives."

Clark explained that while Navy training is currently producing a force that effectively carries American sovereignty around the world, a revolutionary look at the way the Navy trains is needed to ensure we continue to maintain our superiority.

"We are going to challenge all of our assumptions about when, where and how we train our professionals — and where there are advantages in change, we will change," Clark said.

"The commitment to educa-

tion and learning ties my Top Five Priorities with the two principles I use to evaluate leaders — their commitment to mission accomplishment and to the growth and development of our people."

Rear Adm. Harry Ulrich, presently serving as the USS Enterprise (CVN 65) Battle Group Commander, will lead Task Force EXCEL. Ulrich will report to the Commander of Naval Education and Training (CNET), Vice Adm. Al Harms.

The CNO announced this initiative in messages to Navy leaders July 20.

The Navy conducted a top-level review to lay the groundwork for this initiative. A committee consisting of fleet,

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MWR activities are available throughout the month of August

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World, the Audubon Zoo and the Aquarium.

The Sports and Fitness Center at the gymnasium is open seven days a week and holidays. Hours Monday through Friday are 5:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sundays and holidays from noon to 5 p.m. The telephone number is 761-2107. The Sports and Fitness Center also has group cycling Monday through Thursday from 7:15 - 8 a.m.; lap swimming in the base pool is Monday through Friday from 6 - 8 a.m., and then again from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; open swim is available Monday through Thursday from 1 - 7 p.m., on Friday from 1 - 4 p.m., and on weekends and holidays from noon to 5 p.m. Water aerobics is held every

Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

The new Cardio Room at the gym is now open during regular gym hours, and Abs classes are scheduled for every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 and 11:30 a.m.

The Cyber Cafe is open Monday through Friday from 4:30 - 10 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday from noon until 10 p.m. Outdoor Rental is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. The telephone number is 761-2038.

Cracker Jacks at Lakeside is open Monday through Thursday 5 - 10 p.m.. Movie nights are Aug. 7, "Family Man;" Aug. 14, "Monkey Bone;" Aug. 21 "Enemy at the Gates;" and Aug. 28 showing "Bounce."

USO now open for business

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was chartered in 1941, and today's dedication of this building supports the fact that the USO is alive and well in our country.

"A former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff once said that when soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen see a USO sign,

they see the front door of their homes. They see open arms greeting them and they see smiling faces ready to help them," he added.

"Today, this new USO in Pascagoula, Miss., will serve as a little bit of home for all the military personnel in the Pascagoula area," Cole concluded. "This investment to-

day clearly represents something the community is giving back to them to improve their quality of life."

The USO will be open seven days a week, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 5 to 11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

For more information call 761-5629.

SECNAV's message to the fleet

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the end of the day, our sailors, Marines, and civilian personnel should know that their work is important to building and maintaining the Navy and Marine Corps' combat capability. Our organization must support an environment in which each person can professionally excel and contribute to the mission.

To help achieve the most effective combat capability and readiness, we will need to apply new forms of advanced technology. This has been central to our nation's military for generations. Advanced technology in its many forms has proven itself time and again as a way to save lives and win

wars: It is an asset that our nation needs. I am committed to the application of technology in the military in a manner and rate similar to the commercial market. We will simplify the acquisition system, streamline the bureaucratic decision-making processes, promote innovation throughout the Department of the Navy and engage the full spectrum of American businesses and universities to get you the modern tools to do your mission successfully.

Finally, we will strive to improve the internal "business" practices within the department. While the Navy and Marine Corps serve a national purpose and provide a public service well beyond the com-

mercial objective of profit, many business practices are still applicable. By improving these processes, we should be able to shift more dollars into combat capability and quality of service.

It is a distinct honor to serve with you. Together we can meet the challenges ahead and leave a record for the generations of Sailors and Marines that follow. We can be proud of serving to protect freedom and American ideals in this century and beyond.

We are "one team" and we will commit ourselves to "one fight." I look forward to the opportunity to work with you as your Secretary. Semper fi and sail safe.

CNO training

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CNET and OPNAV representatives, led by retired Vice Adm. Lee Gunn, interviewed Sailors, reviewed policies and procedures, and evaluated successful corporate training programs.

"We will use the information they gathered to better meet our mission requirements; identify the knowledge, skills and tools our Sailors need to fight and win; and leverage emergent learning technologies in the most effective and efficient manner," the CNO said.

Ticonderoga crew helps South American school

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school building and constructed a cement walkway between the school and playground so children will not get muddy during the rainy season in Ecuador.

Two engineering sailors, EN2(SW) Jeffrey Hatter and EM2(SW) Steven Madison rewired the school's lighting system and connected electric

power between two buildings. HT1(SW) Floyd Carpenter, BM2(SW) Michael Haas, and EN1(SW) Gary Snear welded and painted basketball goals on the school's playground. Other sailors assisted in removing brick and wood, clearing large areas of the playground making it safer for the children to play.

A special lunch of barbecued chicken and hot dogs was prepared by Ticonderoga's mess specialists. The barbecue was a festive end to a hard day's work and let parents, teachers, and children say "thank you."

Ticonderoga's sailors left the project with feelings of personal achievement and satisfaction. Haas, who

headed up the community relations project, said, "It was a lot of fun. This project made us realize what is important and that we need to appreciate the things in life that we take for granted in the United States. It was a very big deal to the parents and teachers that we helped to improve their children's quality of life and education."

Navy News

Start preparing now for 2002 advancement cycle

By G.E. Diehl
Navy Advancement Center

Beginning in January 2002, Navy Advancement Examinations will have 200 questions, some of which will be based on occupational standards and others on professional military knowledge (PMK).

The occupational/PMK ratios are 100/100 for E7, 115/85 for E6, 135/65 for E5, and 50/50 for E4. The occupational questions will be presented first, with the PMK questions following. The military questions will be identical for all candidates, across ratings but within pay grades.

The bibliographies will continue to be exam specific. While we're on the bibs, let me provide some additional information that might help you prepare for advancement using the 150 item exams. (Guidance for 200 item exams will be the same; only the exam length

will change.) Please share it with your shipmates.

Obtaining materials for advancement study is the responsibility of the candidate. In addition to the bibs, candidates can obtain the same information from on-the-job training, formal training, official publications, training manuals, and even "generic" books. For example, the computer books referenced on the IT bibliography should be considered "generic." That is, any publications covering similar content will suffice.

It may be instructive to tell you how the bibs come about. Each exam starts with a subject matter expert (E7/8/9) writing a test outline. The outline itself is exactly like the outline of a book, with sections, subsections, and importance/coverage weightings. Next, the SME sets about writing or selecting questions to complete each section. Item

selection stops with question 150. The SME then ensures each item is referenced to an occupational standard and has a published, generally available source.

This ensures that the answer exists in print and not just in the SME's head. The SME stops at the first reference found; there may be more than one reference, and there may be better references. But the point is to verify the accuracy of the item and the first one is sufficient. This list of references becomes the bib. Chapters, sections, parts, etc. are shown when it makes sense to do so. However, sometimes most or all of a publication is used, in which case we just report the whole thing.

The basic idea of the advancement exams is to assess the Sailor's years in the Navy, and not a few weeks cramming for the exam. We also attempt to cover the entire scope of

each rating. The Advancement Handbooks (available on the Internet) should help you in this regard. You might also consider adding Advancement Handbook review to your study plan, perhaps establishing your own library of Advancement Handbook supporting publications. Use the Advancement Handbooks as a long term preparation strategy and the bibs as an indication of where the next exam is going.

I strongly suggest you visit our web site at <http://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil/>.

If we can be of further assistance, please let me know. Point of contact is G. E. Diehl, Head, Examination Development Branch (N312), Navy Advancement Center (N3), NETPDTC. The telephone number is (850) 452-1001, ext 2163, DSN 922-1001, ext 2163).

Personal Classifieds

Advertising in the Personal Classifieds is restricted to active duty and retired military, their dependents and civilian employees assigned to the fleet concentration area around Naval Station Pascagoula.

This is a free service provided by the staff of the NAVSTA Pascagoula Public Affairs Office to help qualified personnel dispose of unwanted personal articles. Service ads such as sharing rides to and from work, lost and found items, and garage sales will be accepted.

Ads pertaining to gun sales will not be accepted. Animal or pet sales will be accepted only if the animals are offered free.

No advertisements will be accepted by phone. Faxed ads will be accepted at (228) 761-2087, but they must be completed on the attached form.

Name: _____ Rank/Grade: _____ Work Phone: _____

Organization: _____

Signature: _____ Date submitted: _____